To: THE HONORABLE DAN SULLIVAN
   ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY

From: ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Subject: Bi-annual Anchorage Park Foundation Board Report on Park Investments

2013 marks the ninth summer construction and volunteer work season for the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), and it will be the busiest and most efficient yet. APF utilizes all varieties of private and public funding sources and volunteer hours to accomplish park improvements and fund recreation opportunities – this year APF will fund 35 park improvement projects. APF meets donor and volunteer needs by leveraging funds through this unique public-private partnership. We hope you agree that APF’s ability to engage the community in meaningful ways, inspire nontraditional partnerships, stretch a dollar, attract grants and introduce new donors to projects, produces park and trail results.

APF works closely with municipal staff to implement projects. The board appreciates the support of the Anchorage Assembly and the Municipality of Anchorage staff as we work to seek supplemental resources and community support for parks, trails, and recreation programs. We submit that our joint successes have led to an increase in community ownership of our system of parks and trails.

APF will sponsor 35 construction projects for summer 2013 between our neighborhood parks, challenge grants, Youth Employment in Parks projects, and other special community park projects. Included in this suite of projects are: six playground installations, resurfacing seven miles of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, the Veterans Memorial Renovation, and reconstruction of the Mulcahy Rinks with the Scotty Gomez Foundation.

APF fundraising for capital projects has resulted in private, federal, and state investments, plus a tremendous amount of volunteer support. Since its inception, APF has raised more than $23.4 million for Anchorage Parks. APF has:

- raised $8,431,694 in private dollars;
- leveraged $5,485,634 in volunteer time and materials;
- secured an additional $2,039,084 in Rasmuson Foundation challenge grants (pledged funding if we meet their specified challenges);
• secured $6,720,789 in state legislative funding for reimbursement;
and secured $676,924 in Federal funding for reimbursement.

APF is also the named manager of more than $805,000 for neighborhood parks in
the 2013 state capital budget currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.

APF bridges a gap in government capacity by providing private funders options for
giving, with particular focus on enhancing and taking better care of our
neighborhood parks. Volunteers in 2008 and 2011 completed park assessments
that gave APF information for fix-it lists and park report cards. Using the volunteer
identified park improvements, APF worked with the Parks and Recreation
Department and volunteers to substantially renovate 14 parks in 2009, 8 parks in
2010, 7 parks in 2011, and 8 in 2012. We have 5 scheduled this summer. You are
invited to join us and volunteer with your constituents for these projects, each
scheduled on Saturdays from 9am-noon:

• Elderberry Park – June 29th, Downtown
• Scenic Park – July 13th, Scenic Foothills
• Fairview Lions Park – July 20th, Fairview
• Arctic Benson Park – July 27th, Spenard
• Campbell Park – August 3rd, Tudor/Lake Otis Area

APF recently awarded 20 Challenge Grants to groups committed to making capital
improvements to parks in 2013 and 2014. Volunteers will match their grants with
cash, volunteer hours, materials, or a combination. For more information on any of
these exciting projects see www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org. Projects include a
dog park, tennis courts, community gardens, and neighborhood parks.

Youth Employment in Parks starts its seventh season of parks and recreation
work this June. Park improvement projects include:

• Valley of the Moon Park – Stream Restoration
• Coastal Trail – Trail Clearing, Vegetation Maintenance
• Beaver Pond Trail – Girdwood
• William B Lyons Park – Landscaping
• Far North Bicentennial Park – Trail Rehabilitation
• Campbell Creek Estuary – New Trail Construction

Teens will also staff special summer events such as:

• June 8th, National Get Outdoors Day
• August 2nd, YEP Celebration: Cuddy Family Midtown Park

Also of note, APF is proud to be a champion for the Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation’s initiative to make Anchorage the #1 city in America to
“Live.Work.Play.” by 2025. Play is important to thriving cities, and Anchorage
parks, trails, and recreation opportunities are a big part of what this city offers
residents.

To highlight the added value the municipality receives from this nonprofit venture,
the board hereby submits this bi-annual report on the cumulative financial
investments in Anchorage Parks and Recreation Programs. The board believes strongly that these investments are significant in monetary and social value, and improve municipal assets. The board acknowledges the Anchorage Assembly as the elected body charged with maintaining these beloved public lands, and looks forward to using this bi-annual report as a means to communicate its contributions to the Municipality of Anchorage.

Please stay tuned for APF events all summer, featuring constituents, donors, park volunteers and advocates. APF will host ribbon cuttings, volunteer days, groundbreaking ceremonies, demolition events, opening ceremonies, fundraisers, and park planning meetings. You will be welcome to participate, and celebrate park and trail stewardship.

For more information on the Anchorage Park Foundation initiatives see www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org or call Beth Nordlund at 274-1004.

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Attached: APF 2013 Park and Trail Project Map

Each project represents a different way APF is connecting our community. We are bringing our diverse population together for projects they care about. From Hillside Trails to Mountain View Gardens to neighborhood swing sets, APF has a project close to your heart. APF serves as an organizing nonprofit that fosters innovation, reaches out to inspire and fund nontraditional partnerships, and produces park and trail results.